

-2 -

an illumination beam which is focused by said objective lens through said window to said tissue sample, in which said objective lens receives returned light from said tissue sample representing a tissue section; and

means for displaying said tissue section to diagnose abnormalities in said tissue sample.

36. (amended) The system according to Claim 35 wherein said tumor represents one of carcinomas and melanomas.

Please add new Claims 44-48:

44. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 27 wherein said housing is positionable to locate said window in direct contact with said surface of said tissue sample.

45. (new) The system according to Claim 34 wherein said housing is positionable to locate said window in direct contact with said surface of said tissue sample.

46. (new) The method according to Claim 37 wherein said placing step further comprises the step of pressing said surface of said window into said pressure contact relationship with said surface of said tissue.

47. (new) A microscopic imaging apparatus for imaging tissue samples for pathological applications through an objective lens, said apparatus comprising;

an objective lens;

a window having a surface that is capable being in a direct pressure contacting relationship with the surface of said tissue sample; and

a housing capable of being handheld having at least said window lens in optical communication with said objective lens.

48. (new) The apparatus according to Claim 47 wherein said housing is positionable to locate said window in direct contact with said surface of said tissue sample without use of suction to enable said contact.